

SUNY CANTON COLLEGE COUNCIL

245th MEETING

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Present:	Jennifer Bernadotte Thomas Sauter	Timothy Currier Roger Sharlow	Cecily Morris	Ronald O'Neill
Absent:	Grace Burke	Richard Callan	Chloe Ann O'Neil	
Others Present:	Ryan Deuel Joseph Kennedy Karen Spellacy	Charles Fenner Molly Mott	David Gerlach Linda Pellett	Christine Gray Randy Sieminski

Call to Order

Chairman O'Neill called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Welcome & Introduction

Mr. Sauter was thanked by Chairman O'Neill for serving as Acting Chair during his unexpected absence at the November meeting.

Karen Spellacy, our new Faculty Senator, was introduced by Chairman O'Neill. She replaces Dr. John Nixon, who retired in December.

Minutes of November 2, 2010

Mr. Currier made a motion to approve the November 2, 2010 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sauter and carried.

Approval of Exchange Visitor Designation

Mr. Deuel provided a brief background on the Exchange Visitor Designation form that requires the Council's approval. The College is designated to issue certain visas to international students. This request will allow us to issue J Visas for our summer international programs. The F Visa is for international students who come to study for twelve credit hours or more and stay for a semester or year. The J Visa is more flexible, allows international students to stay for a shorter period of time, and they do not have to take college credits. This form is basically something that needs to be completed annually for the Department of State. We have only issued the F Visas in the past, but would like the capability to issue J Visas as well for our summer international students. SUNY Buffalo has issued the J Visas for our international students in the past, but will no longer be doing so. This form does not put any different type of obligation on the college except we must make sure the students arrive in the United States when they are supposed to and leave the country when they are supposed to.

Mr. Sharlow made a motion that the Exchange Visitor Designation request be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morris and carried.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Chairman's Report

Chairman O'Neill updated the College Council on recent Association of Council Members & College Trustees (ACT) activities. Mr. O'Neill serves on the ACT Board of Directors. They had a conference call on December 16 with 45 participants which lasted approximately one hour. Topics discussed included (1) orientation for new college council members and (2) ACT Association Officers attending College Council meetings around the State. Mr. O'Neill mentioned how SUNY Canton is hurt by its growing enrollment numbers, and two other directors indicated that their college had the same problem. There was also talk about supporting a five-year budget plan. The Board of Directors will have another conference call on February 14. The Governor's Budget will be discussed. Mr. O'Neill shared his thoughts on SUNY Day and lobbying with the College Council members. SUNY Day will be held on March 28 this year, which will be too late with the April 1 Budget Deadline.

Chairman O'Neill briefly reviewed the resolution that the SUNY Board of Trustees recently passed regarding College Councils. There was a question as to whether the resolution was informational or if the College Council was to act upon it. After some discussion, it was decided that Vice President Gray and Ms. Morris would have a conference call with SUNY Legal Counsel to see what was expected of the Council.

Ms. Morris made a motion to table the resolution until further information was provided by SUNY Administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sauter and carried. [After the meeting, Mrs. Basford reviewed further documentation from System Administration regarding the resolution. It was determined that the resolution was only informational and that no action was required. Mrs. Basford emailed a clarification to the College Council, and it was decided to not take any further action.]

President's Report

President Kennedy reported that he recently returned from very successful alumni/development visits on the west coast of Florida.

Dr. Kennedy shared the success rate of our students who participated in the Be Proud Program (block schedule classes). These students were on the borderline of being accepted into SUNY Canton, because of their GPA's. These students are enrolled in the Pre-Criminal Justice, Pre-Criminal Investigation, and Pre-Law Enforcement Leadership curriculums. Their success rates in the past have not been good. With the block schedule classes, they took one class at a time every three weeks. They were in the same class all day and completed their homework assignments in class as well. After the Fall 2010 Semester, their average GPA was 2.28. The average GPA of the entire freshmen class was 2.31. Their success rate was 85% or higher. This shows that the block schedule format was successful and will be offered again during the Spring 2011 Semester.

The entire freshmen class did very well academically compared to past years. Historically, the average GPA of freshmen after the first semester was around 1.9. This year, the average GPA was 2.3. The Be Proud Program helped to raise that average, as well as increasing the minimum GPA for college admission. The College has increased the minimum GPA to 75 for students admitted for the Fall 2011 Semester. Each year, it is President Kennedy's intent to continue to gradually raise the GPA until it reaches a minimum of 80. Dr. Kennedy recently reviewed the success rates of Heuvelton Central School graduates who were first-time, full-time freshmen during the Fall 2010 Semester. They had an average of 90 in high school, and 100% of them were successful for the Fall semester.

Dr. Kennedy also reported that the Jumpstart Program was very successful. This program was for students who were just below last Fall's floor of a minimum of a GPA of 73, or they had a GPA of 75/76 but had low Regents and/or SAT scores. These were considered at-risk students. They were given a conditional acceptance to the College and came to the campus two weeks earlier than other students to brush up on their Math and English

skills. After the Fall 2010 Semester, 81% of the Jumpstart students met re-registration requirements. Dr. Mott noted that their arrival two weeks early also provided them with a sense of community/bond that helped to retain them.

Chief of Staff Update

Mr. Deuel provided an update on NYPA and the Adirondack Moses Power Line (AMPL) that separates the campus from the Convocation, Athletic, and Recreation Center (CARC). NYPA Chairman Richard Kessel and several other NYPA representatives visited the campus at the end of 2009 and viewed the AMPL. They agreed that it was in the way and was also dangerous. They agreed to help us in getting them moved. Since then, Mr. Deuel has followed up with them numerous times to check on the status of the move. The problem is that the AMPL is over 50 years old, and NYPA needs to make a decision whether they want to upgrade the line or get rid of it. They are not ready to make that decision right now. Last week, Mr. Deuel and our Director of Facilities and Capital Improvement, Michael McCormick had a conference call with NYPA officials. They have given us some options on how we can temporarily get them out of our way: (1) parallel or (2) going around the CARC, or (3) going straight up and down. The cost to do this would range between \$1.5 and \$7 million. The straight up and down option was the least expensive option. NYPA is not willing to take on this expense at this time, so it would be SUNY Canton's responsibility. The College's next step is to speak with the SUNY Construction Fund to see if there is any way that we can pay for this to happen. If NYPA does decide to upgrade the line, they would work with us and put it anywhere we want, BUT it would not be finished until 2018. Mr. Sharlow asked if NYPA would be willing to share the cost with us to temporarily move them. Mr. Deuel indicated that they did not ask that question due to the fact that we currently do not know where we could even come up with half of the money. It was also noted that perhaps politics might have caused their change of attitude from "Yes, we will help you do this." to "No, we can't." There will most likely be some upcoming changes within NYPA over the next month or two until the Governor gets settled in. We did make a funding request in 2007 from the SUNY Construction Fund to move the lines, but it was not funded. Perhaps, now it can be looked at again.

An update on our anaerobic digester was provided by Mr. Deuel. Northeast Biogas no longer exists. They were bought out by a company in Germany. Northeast Biogas contracted with Envitec to lay out this project. Tom Lawson, a former Envitec employee was hired by the German company. Whether or not this German company will take the project over or not will depend on financing. The project was originally funded by a grant from NYSERDA grant for \$1 million. With the change, the cost will increase to \$4 million. Mr. Lawson is currently in Germany training. The College is waiting to hear whether this company is willing to take the project over and if NYSERDA is willing to delay the funding again. Luckily, actual site work had not begun yet, and the final agreements had not been reached or signed yet. Ms. Morris suggested that we contact our federal legislators and ask for assistance. Mr. Deuel agreed to contact our federal representatives and ask for assistance with the project. Mr. Sharlow recommended that Congressman Owens be contacted since he was just appointed to the Agriculture Committee. Vice President Pellett noted that the Agway Heffer Barns were just sold to a company in Maine. They will be feeding between 4,000 and 5,000 cattle there, which would be another opportunity for a digester.

Vice President Gerlach noted that the wind turbine project has also slowed down.

Academic Affairs Update

Provost Pellett reported that we currently have three four-year degree proposals in Albany awaiting approval. The Applied Psychology program has been one problem after another from the very beginning. Last week, Dr. Nixon submitted the final documentation to the Office of Professions that will hopefully release the program soon. They have already approved three Applied Psychology programs for Farmingdale, Ithaca, and NYU, but are giving Morrisville, Cobleskill, and us a run-around with our proposals.

Veterinary Technology is still with SUNY. Our liaison at SUNY came from the State Education Department and saw some red flags with our proposal. She contacted the Office of Professions to see if they had any suggestions on naming one of our tracks. The Office of Professions did not respond, so Provost Pellett and our Veterinary Science Program Director Mary Loomis changed a track name and have submitted it.

The Health and Fitness proposal is at the State Education Department, and Ms. Pellett feels that is probably hung up with the Office of Professions as well. [Immediately following the meeting, Provost Pellett was pleased to receive email notification from SED that the proposal was approved and registered.]

Provost Pellett indicated that all of the special programming will continue in the Fall.

An internal fair will be held on April 20 to recruit our one-year and two-year students into our two-year and four-year programs.

Dr. Fenner reported that two Provost candidates will be doing on-campus interviews on Monday and Wednesday of next week. They will be giving presentations to the campus community at 1 and 3 p.m. in the Woodcock Conference Suite, Miller Campus Center, Rm. 214. College Council members were invited to attend.

Faculty members are working closely with the Registrar's Office to identify early students that are not attending classes. Hopefully, they will be removed from classes prior to census date to help improve our census numbers.

Dr. Fenner noted that he recently attended a campus governance leadership conference and was pleased to report that our faculty leadership has a very positive relationship with its administration and open communication regarding things that might have an adverse effect on faculty such as program eliminations, enrollment caps, etc. Many colleges do not have this very solid relationship.

Administrative Affairs Update

Vice President Gray reported that the CARC or "Roos House" is moving right along. The College is optimistic for a May opening and hopes to hold Commencement in it. Plan B has been created should the building not be completed until June.

The first search for the CARC Director failed. The position was offered to one candidate, but they declined our offer. The second candidate was asked to come back for a second interview, but withdrew his application. The ad for the position has been revised and was sent out late last week. To date, about 75 applications have been received. For the first search, there were 190 applications received.

Another search that is currently underway is for the Director of Institutional Research. This is a critical position for the campus. This search will hopefully be wrapped up in the next month or two.

The enrollment caps discussion has been silent to date. System Administration has provided the campuses with their enrollment cap numbers, should they be implemented for 2011-12. If enrollment caps are placed on the colleges, it may have a negative impact on us.

The impact of the Governor's budget, which is being released later today, is unknown. It is expected that it will not be good news. The loss of State support for the College is very large. Back in 2007, 47.2% of our State-operating budget was State support. It currently is 39%. Last year, our budget was \$19.6 million. This year, our budget is \$18.6 million with only \$7 million in State support. Our growing enrollment numbers help us to

manage these cuts. Our overall budget, which includes IFR's, SUTRA, etc., is \$26 million. Eighty percent (80%) of this amount is allocated to PSR or salaries. The College may need to look at some of its IFR's to see if it is possible to move employees over to those accounts in order to manage any additional reductions.

Chairman O'Neill asked what would happen if the Governor announced that there would no longer be automatic annual increases to the budget. Ms. Gray responded that this would be the HEPI Increase for us. If that was taken away, it would be yet another cut. President Kennedy noted that should this be taken away, this would be the better year for it to happen to SUNY Canton.

Mrs. Gray shared a financial chart with Council members which showed that we are financially in good shape this fiscal year. We have only spent 54% of our operating budget at this point.

Advancement Update

Vice President Gerlach stated that first-time students' applications are up 10%, acceptances are down 8%, and deposits are too early to look at.

Mr. Gerlach reported that the bar for acceptance has been raised to a 75 GPA. By moving the bar from a 73 GPA to a 75 GPA last year and holding all else equal to our class last year means that there could be a 200 student reduction in enrollment holding all things the same. There is an active plan to replace these students. Mr. Gerlach feels better students will enroll to replace the lost students as a result of the new athletic center, residence hall, baccalaureate degrees, improved athletic recruiting, and extra admissions/marketing push. He plans to enroll 100 of the 200 from athletic recruiting. He also stated that 100 of the 200 lost came from Long Island/NYC area and could have an impact on our diversity numbers. Mr. Gerlach stated that we need to stay ahead of the loss. There should be an impact on the first-year student retention as a result of increasing high school GPA, but the graduation impact cannot be figured yet.

It was reported that 46% of our students are from St. Lawrence County, and the changes to the acceptance process will impact many of these students. Those who are denied may go out of the county to go to school causing revenue problems for the county. This time last year, we denied 191 students and ended up denying over a 1000. Right now, we have denied 539 students. Mr. Gerlach indicated that everyone is working on getting the students that we need. Dr. Kennedy stated that the pressure that Admissions is under will lessen down the road as retention increases.

It was asked if the high school guidance counselors know about our new standards, because it does not seem like they do if we are still getting applications that are being denied. Mr. Gerlach replied that we still have one-year certificate programs that have a very basic set of requirements which in turn allows for the submission of these applications. He also stated that this is only the fifth year of raising the bar, so we may need a few more to get everything switched over. It was reported that the counselors provide this information at their school visits.

President Kennedy shared with the members that our enrollment has seen a 12% growth in the last ten years where as SUNY has only grown between 3-5%.

Vice President Gerlach feels that the new Sports Management bachelor's degree is moving along nicely. We have 18 students enrolled in the program, 40 students in the pre-program, and 111 additional applications for the program.

Mr. Gerlach reported that fundraising efforts for the Foundation are still underway. They are in the process of sweeping the alumni database to look for funding prospects and have employed a new program to help tailor that effort. He indicated that Dr. Kennedy's alumni travel to Florida fared well with a \$100,000 gift. He also stated that discussions over the naming of the ice rink are in process.

The new residence hall construction continues. It is a week behind schedule, but it is believed that it will be done on time.

Mr. Sieminski showed Council members the new television commercials and indicated that they have been successful so far. The commercials are shown from the Albany area up, Syracuse area up, and Vermont area over on the cable networks.

Mr. Sieminski reported on athletics. He stated that our intentions are to move to the NCAA division with an exploratory year next year. Many, including us, have moved away from the NAIA because of financial reasons. We are moving to the USCAA initially, because we need to build the number of varsity teams in order to enter the NCAA. They require 12 sports teams, 6 men/6 women. We will be adding women's lacrosse, men's golf, women's volleyball, women's hockey, and men's lacrosse over the next few years. Mr. Sieminski stated that we still have challenges to overcome and smooth out.

Chairman O'Neill asked if a recruitment program/tool was in place. Mr. Sieminski responded that we go to high schools and have contact in various ways with prospective students. He indicated that Admissions and coaches are working together to recruit.

It was also asked how we handle scholarships for recruiting incentives. The response was that we are able to look at the whole student which will show benefit to the campus and give them an idea of their financial aid and scholarship opportunities. The fact that we can offer a premium facility with several academic offerings that are exclusive to our campus helps with recruitment as well.

Lastly, Mr. Sieminski shared with the members that we are lucky to have an international student here from AUBiH to play on our women's basketball team. She has been a great student and a wonderful addition to the women's basketball team.

Student Affairs Update

This semester, a Wellness and President's Challenge will be initiated. The campus community will be invited to transition into a healthier campus. All areas of campus will be invited to participate: student clubs and organizations, honor societies, academic programs/disciplines, faculty, and staff. Many areas have already started scheduling events. In April, President Kennedy will change the campus community to race him on a six-mile run.

The campus is laying the groundwork for transitioning into a smoke-free campus. Mrs. Basford and Lisa Colbert will be attending a seminar on how best to do the transition in Syracuse next week.

Of the 23 students on the Honors Floor, 17 achieved a 3.0 or greater GPA for Fall 2010.

Winterterm enrollment increased by 46%.

A Task Force on Greek Affairs is being formed. The task force will explore the role of Greeks in the context of the college's mission & values-review policies. Currently, the College has a moratorium on new Greek organizations forming until the Task Force on Greek Affairs has completed their review of Greek organizations and processes.

A SunGuard rep will be on campus this week to begin the implementation process phase of the Banner Document Management System, which will help the campus move to a paperless campus.

All health records are being changed to an electronic format via MEDICAT.

The campus is working on a single-sign on portal implementation.

Southworth Library has extended its hours with the help of the SGA. It will now be open from 8 a.m. to Midnight, except on Fridays.

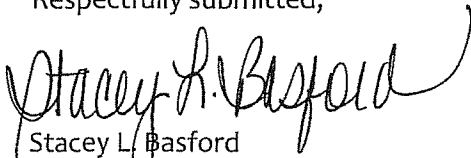
The Diversity Discussions & Group Dinner Discussions with faculty and students are continuing this semester. They tie in well with the wellness issues and initiatives.

A dialogue session was recently held with University Police and the student leaders. The dialogue was exceptional. Common issues and concerns were discussed. Miss Bernadotte stated that the dialogue was necessary and was very beneficial to both sides.

Adjournment

Miss Bernadotte made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sauter and carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Stacey L. Basford
Secretary to the College Council